

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001453

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/18/2015

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [NO](#) [CE](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: NORWEGIAN FACILITATORS SEND LETTER TO
LTTE LEADER PRABHAKARAN VIA LONDON, GSL ASKS EU TO LIST
LTTE AS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

REF: COLOMBO 1440 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Charge' d'Affaires, a.i. James F. Entwistle for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary. In their August 17 meeting with LTTE theoretician Anton Balasingham in London, Norwegian FM Petersen and DFM Helgesen passed a letter to LTTE leader Prabhakaran (text below). At GSL request, EU missions in Colombo will recommend to Brussels that the EU designate the LTTE as a terrorist organization. End Summary
2. (C) Norwegian Ambassador Hans Brattskar called on Charge' August 18 to follow up on Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Helgesen's August 16 meeting with Colombo co-chair representatives. Brattskar confirmed that Norwegian Foreign Minister Petersen and Helgesen had called on LTTE theoretician Anton Balasingham August 17 in London and had given Balasingham a letter to be passed to LTTE leader Prabhakaran (text below).
3. (C) Brattskar noted that he was not sharing a copy of the Prabhakaran letter with the GSL since that was not normal practice. Moreover, the contents of Petersen and Helgesen's Monday night meeting with President Kumaratunga had clearly been leaked to the Colombo press ("Vidar is hopping mad!"), so passing a copy to the GSL would be "like giving it to the Sunday papers," Brattskar mused. He asked that the U.S. not share the letter.
4. (C) Brattskar said that Balasingham had promised Petersen and Helgesen he would translate and transmit the letter to Kilinochchi immediately. Balasingham had expressed concern over recent LTTE actions in the North and East but had danced around the question of responsibility for Kadirgamar's assassination (and disavowed any prior knowledge). Balasingham, Brattskar said, had been pleased at the prospect of receiving the Norwegian FM and at the idea of more direct Norwegian contact with Prabhakaran (although Balasingham said he would want to be present at any such meetings as he usually has in the past - Brattskar said the Norwegians have only met Prabhakaran once when Balasingham was not present). Balasingham did not discuss travel plans to Sri Lanka but Brattskar noted that when he had seen Balasingham in London in July, the LTTE theoretician had said he was thinking about travel to Kilinochchi in October.
5. (C) Brattskar undertook to advise Charge' as soon as the Norwegians had some reaction to the Prabhakaran letter. He noted that as far as he knew a Petersen/Rice conversation was still scheduled to take place this week. The Norwegians, Brattskar concluded, continue to like the idea of a September co-chairs meeting in New York although, given Japanese sensitivities about their standing invitation to host the next meeting in October, the New York meeting should perhaps be billed as something like a preparatory meeting.
6. (C) On a related topic, the British DCM told Charge' August 18 that the GSL had just convoked her High Commissioner (as holder of the EU Presidency in Colombo) and the EC Charge' to ask that the European Union list the LTTE as a terrorist organization (apparently there is a mechanism through which the EU can designate terrorist organizations on a union-wide basis in addition to whatever procedures individual EU members states may have). The EU missions in Colombo plan to endorse the idea strongly to Brussels. The British DCM said she is familiarizing herself on the details of the procedure and the potential timeline for such listing.
7. (C) Text of Norwegian letter (please protect closely) to Prabhakaran follows:

Begin text

Letter from Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Foreign Affairs

To
Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran
Leader
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Oslo, 16 August 2005

Dear Mr. Prabhakaran

As I am sure you realize, the peace process is now in a critical situation. The killings and counter-killings over the last few months have been watched with mounting concern by Norway and the international community. Along with the continued recruitment of children to the LTTE, this has created distrust about the LTTE's intentions as regards the peace process.

The assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar has exacerbated the situation. It is not up to Norway to draw conclusions about the criminal investigations now under way in Colombo, or on any other judicial matter in relation with the killings. However, public perception both in Sri Lanka and internationally is that the LTTE is responsible. This public perception is a political reality. The LTTE needs to respond to this situation in a way that demonstrates continued commitment to the peace process.

I see it as my obligation to make clear to you the political choice now facing the LTTE. If the LTTE does not take a positive step forward at this critical juncture, the international reaction could be severe.

Against this backdrop I would ask you urgently to consider the following steps:

1. To accept the Norwegian Government's invitation to participate in a review of the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement in order to find practical ways of ensuring full compliance by both parties.
2. To establish direct communications between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army in the east, in order to improve security.
3. To accept without delay the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission proposal for transportation of LTTE cadres.
4. To collaborate in a practical way with government initiatives to speed up reconstruction in the north and east. The LTTE's continued commitment to the P-TOMS agreement is vital in this regard.
5. To take effective steps to halt killings and to cease the recruitment of underage combatants.

I trust that you appreciate the gravity of the present situation and will take steps to demonstrate to the international community that the LTTE is committed to the peace process.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Petersen

End Text
ENTWISTLE